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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/631,285

Examiner

Hiep Nguyen

Applicant(s)

NARAYAN, SRIRAM

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 06-25-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13 and 15-31.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


TUAN T. LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reason for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the applicant's amendment of 16-25-04 overcomes the technical deficiencies and the prior art of record.

The prior art of records fails to teach or fairly suggest a multi-function driver configurable to process either single-ended or differential signals, comprising: a first and second pull-up circuits coupled between a supply voltage and respectively a first and second output terminals and including first and second terminals to receive first and second input signals, a first and second pull-down circuits coupled between the first output terminal and ground potential, and including respectively first and second terminal to receive first and second input signals, a first switch coupled the first and second pull-up circuits, the first switch responsive to a mode signal; and a second switch coupled between the first and second pull-down circuits, the second switch responsive to the mode signal as called for in claims 1 and 15; a driver for processing single-ended and differential signals comprising: first and second circuits connected in series between a supply voltage and ground potential; third and fourth circuits connected in series between the supply voltage and ground potential; means for configuring the first and second circuits to implement a first inverter and configuring the third and fourth circuits to implement a second inverter to simultaneously process two single-ended signals during a first mode; and means for configuring the first and third circuits to implement a first differential circuit and configuring the second and fourth circuits to implement a second differential circuit to process a differential signal during a second mode as called for in claim 25; a method of processing single-ended and differential signals using a multi-function driver having first, second, third, and fourth circuits, comprising: configuring the first and second circuits to implement a first inverter and configuring the third and fourth circuits to implement a second inverter to simultaneously process two single-ended signals when a mode signal is in a first logic state; and configuring the first and third circuits to implement a first differential circuit and configuring the second and fourth circuits to implement a second differential circuit to process a differential signal when the mode signal is in a second logic state as called for in claims 28 and 31.

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Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

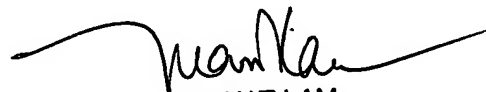
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Hiep Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0127. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (703) 308-4876. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-5716.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Hiep Nguyen

09-01-04



TUAN T. LAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER